OFFICE OF ACQUISITIONS
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER N02-CN-55023-76, entitled
Computing Support for Biometry Research Group

Amendment No. 1

DATE OF ISSUANCE: November 3, 2005

The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth below. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers is changed to **December 6, 2005 at 3:30pm local time**. Offerors must acknowledge receipt of the amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by one of the following methods:

1.   By requesting a copy of the Standard Form 30 for this amendment and completing the information requested in item 8 and 15, and returning 1 copy of the amendment.

2.   By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or

3.   By separate letter, telegram, or Electronic Mail which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers.

FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER.

This amendment revises the RFP as stated below.

This amendment shall serve to extend the proposal due date and to provide clarification/answers to questions posed.

Proposal Due Date

The proposal due date is extended until December 6, 2005 at 3:30pm local time.

Clarification/answers are provided for the following questions:

Question 1:
In Section M, item b. Mandatory Qualification Criteria, paragraph B. states, "The Contractor must use the NIH/CIT Computer Facility for program development and data processing." This seems to be inconsistent with the description of the request for the Contractor to provide a computing infrastructure for SAS analysis, application development, and Web development, as described in the Statement of Work, paragraph C. (5). Please explain or clarify.

Answer 1:
The intent of the requirement is that the contractor have the capability of using the NIH/CIT Computer Facility for program development and data processing. Certain projects require that the NIH facility be used. The intent of the requirement is not to require that all 'program development and data processing' be done at NIH/CIT. Computing costs for projects that require the use of the NIH/CIT facility will be paid for by the government and are not contract costs. The contractor must

bear the cost of connecting to the NIH/CIT facility and providing interfaces that are compatible with the NIH/CIT facility requirements.

Question 2:
Referring to page 42, third paragraph from the top: Does the system engineering support refer to the equipment at the offeror's site or at the NIH facility? In another words are you looking for system management of the NIH facility? Or is this paragraph referring to equipment at the offeror's site?

Answer 2:
The system engineering support refers to the equipment located at the offeror's site and is not for system management of the NIH CIT facility.

Question 3:
What is expected to be running at the offeror's site vs. at NIH? For example are you expecting that the Sybase data at NIH to be completely duplicated and running at the offerors site?

Answer 3:
The system requirements of each project vary and will be the responsibility of the offeror to work with the Biometry Research Group to identify whether the offeror's computer facilities or the NIH CIT facilities are to be utilized. The offeror must be familiar with the resources available at the NIH CIT facilities versus their facilities in order to evaluate the appropriate facility.

Question 4:
Is a subset of that data (Question 3) loaded on the offeror's equipment for processing?

Answer 4:
Depending on the requirements of the Biometry Research project, subsets of data may be required to be downloaded to the offeror's equipment for processing.

Question 5:
Is the data, from cancer research, entered into NIH (Sybase database) directly or is it expected to be loaded on the offeror's site, managed, processed, results produced, and at completion loaded back onto the NIH system? Are the datasets managed at NIH and the contractor just accesses them? Is the data architecture already in place or do you expect new ones to be developed?

Answer 5:
Data utilized under this contract are in various formats and stages of development. Some are resident at CIT facilities; some are to be resident at the offeror's computer facilities. Management of data between both facilities is dependent on the project's requirements, which can vary.

Question 6:
Please specify the separation of work at NIH systems vs. at the offeror's equipment site. Also, please give additional details on the hardware that you require to be running at the offeror's site to support this work.

Answer 6:
As stated above, separation of work at the NIH CIT facilities and the offeror's equipment site will vary from project to project.   Work may be intensive at either facility. The offeror's computer facilities should be able to operate the software itemized in the Statement of Work.

Question 7:
What is the size of data - in Giga or Tera bytes - that the offeror has to manage?

Answer 7:
There are numerous studies with various sizes of data to be managed. Total storage area managed is about 250 GB. Note, however, future studies and development of current studies could warrant expansion to possibly up to 1 TB over the life of the contract.

Question 8:
Can we assume the 800 number access to Helix is virtually unlimited and free of cost?

Answer 8:
Offerors should investigate and propose how they intend to connect to the NIH CIT computer facilities. Please refer to the NIH CIT computer facilities to determine connection costs. The contractor must bear the cost of connecting to the NIH/CIT facility and providing interfaces that are compatible with the NIH/CIT facility requirements.

Question 9:
Are you at liberty to share the reasons this contract has been re-opened for bid?

Answer 9:
This solicitation has been issued as a routine re-competition of the computing support contract to the Biometry Research Group. All offerors will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation factors and sub-factors defined in the solicitation.